(d) The proposed new organization would be helpful to the farmers in respect of the following:—

* All exclusive insurance company will be able to arrange adequate manpower-infrastructure so that it could easily become approachable by the farmers and effective monitoring of crop conditions including yield would also be possible.

* The proposed new agency will facilitate reducing the unit area of insurance.

* The farmers, particularly non-loanee farmers, would be able to submit their insurance proposals directly to the insurance company.

* The proposed new organization would be able to focus on crop insurance and make necessary changes, if required, in the implementation of the scheme quickly.

Lifting of ban on Endosulfan by Kerala

1795. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:
SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the ban imposed on 'Endosulfan'. pesticide which could cause severe health problems, has been lifted by Kerala Government;

(b) whether Government would consider to institute an enquiry in the matter and arrange to impose the ban on 'Endosulfan' pesticide;

(c) whether Government would consider to depute a Central team to study the adverse effect of pesticide including environment problems, in Kerala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir,.

(b) to (d) A study has been conducted by the National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH) of the Indian Council of Medical Research and they have submitted their first report. Further, the Registration

Committee constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides-Act, 1968 have constituted an Expert Group including experts from Indian Council of Agricultural Research and All India Institute of Medical Sciences, to study the effects of use of endosulfan in this perspective and make recommendations regarding its continued use restricted use or otherwise.

Impact of new fertilizer policy

1796. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Fertilizer Industry has refuted Government's contention that it stands so gain Rs. 312 crore from the 7th and 8th pricing policy, which was recently approved by the Cabinet;

(b) whether according to the industry sources, the fertilizer industry is all set to make a loss of Rs. 2,875 crore, because of these pricing policies; and

(c) if so, what would be the impact of the newpolicy and the industry as a whole?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) There is no loss to the fertilizer industry in the wake of approval of updated policy parameters for 7th and 8th pricing periods. Policy parameters for the 7th and 8th pricing periods under the existing Retention Price Scheme have been approved by the competent authority on 16.5.2002 and have also been communicated to all urea companies on 4.6.2002. The final unit-wise determination of retention prices based on approved parameters would entail updating the norms of the various units in respect of salaries & wages, utilities, repairs & maintenance, consumption norms, plant capacities, capital additions, foreign exchange fluctuation etc., that were not updated since 1.7.1997; and this will result in regularization of payments already made beyond 30.6.1997 and may lead to recoveries in some cases and payments in some other cases.

Fertilizer Industry Development Fund

1797. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Group of Ministers headed by Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission, has submitted any report to Government on the proposed decontrol in pricing, movement and distribution of Urea by April 1, 2006;